Variations and Fugue
on the Mediaeval Hymn to Saint Magnus

Clive Strutt

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Cover Illustration: The St Magnus stained-glass window in the Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney. It dates back to the 1920s and is the work of Oscar Paterson (1863-1934). It was paid for by the 1903 Thom bequest and is to be found at the triforium level on the wall of the north transcept. St Magnus Erlendson, Earl of Orkney died on the island of Egilsay (between 1115 and 1118[1]) when his cousan Hakon treacherously killed him on 16 April. On the window the saint (canonised in 1135) is depicted with a palm and a large sword in his hands.

[1] The traditional date is 1116 though both Gregor Lamb and Sigurd Towie have made a sound case for the year 1118. However, the 900th anniversary of the death of St Magnus is to take place in Orkney in 2017.

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Composer's Notes

The Variations on the mediaeval Hymn to Saint Magnus was composed in 1971 with the intention that it should be performed at a concert to inaugurate the newly rebuilt organ in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney. The organist there at the time, Norman Mitchell, however, did not learn or play the work, and there was in fact no specific inaugural concert.

There was, however, a private performance in 1972 by Dr J. A. Jeffrey in the St Leonhard's Protestant Church in St Gallen, Switzerland. The work has yet to receive its public premiere.

The hymn referred to exists in a manuscript held at Uppsala University in Sweden and is noted by music historians as being one of the earliest examples known of the use of parallel thirds.

Although this work exists primarily as an organ solo, the individual movements were extracted in 1982 and incorporated into a *Communion Service for the Day of Saint Magnus the Martyr, Earl of Orkney* as a series of organ interludes. The duration of the piece is approximately eleven minutes.

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PROCESSIONAL PRELUDE: *Intrada and Hymn to Saint Magnus*

Clive Strutt

INTRADA: Maestoso

2

3

INTERLUDE I: *Padovana and Gagliarda alla Capriccio*

Clive Strutt

Vivace

brioso
Man.
Ped.
8'

"Toccata"
Vivace
brillante
Gt. to Mixture IV
Sw. to Mixture III
legato
Sw. to Gt. Positif Trombe
Fl. 32', 16', 8', + Waldhorn 16'
Gt. to Ped., Sw. to Ped.
Man.
Ped.

Man.
Organ
Ped.
+ Octave

"Passamezzo and Saltarello"
Vivace
Presto
Sw. to Mix. + Waldhorn 16 } 8ct.
sub:pp (echo)
mf
pp (echo)
mf
Vivace (come primo)

Organ
man-
Organ
man-
Organ
man-
Organ
man-

9

Corrente

Moderato
Man.
Sw. 8',4'
Organ
Gt. S+D 8'
Ped.
p
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.

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(2da volta)
Man.
Organ
Ped.
(2da volta)
CODA
Man.
Organ
Ped.
D.C. al Coda
FINE.

"Carillon and Giga"
Ben vivo
Man. to mixtures
Trombone 16',8'
Man.
Ped.
simplice
Pos. 8',4',2'
mf
FINE
Diap.

-13-
Man.
Organ
Ped.
1
2
3
4
5
6
1ma volta
2da volta
(1ma volta)
Da Capo
al FINE.

14

RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE
Fantasia and Fugue

Fantasia: ***Pepetuum Mobile*** (representing the Martydom of Saint Magnus in Egilsay)

Adagio, poco a poco accelerando

(m.m. ♪ = 50, increasing gradually to ♪ = 80 by bar 13)

FUGUE

Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.

17

Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.

Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.

Man.
Organ
Ped.
8' Fl.
f

Man.
Organ
Ped.
8',16'

Man.
Organ
Ped.
dim.
p

Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.

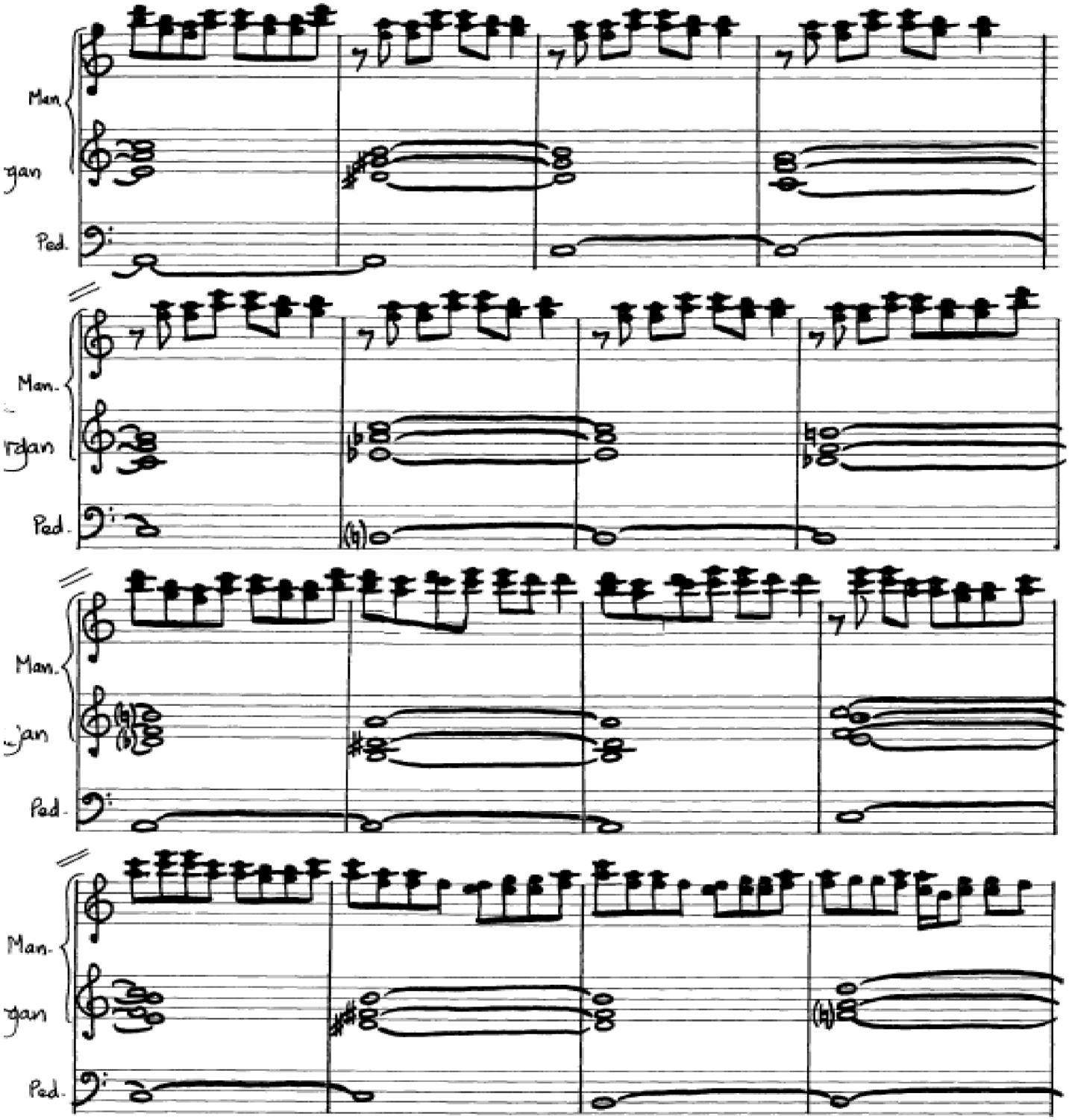
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Pos.
Sw.
delicato con malinconia e tenerezza

Man.
sub.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.

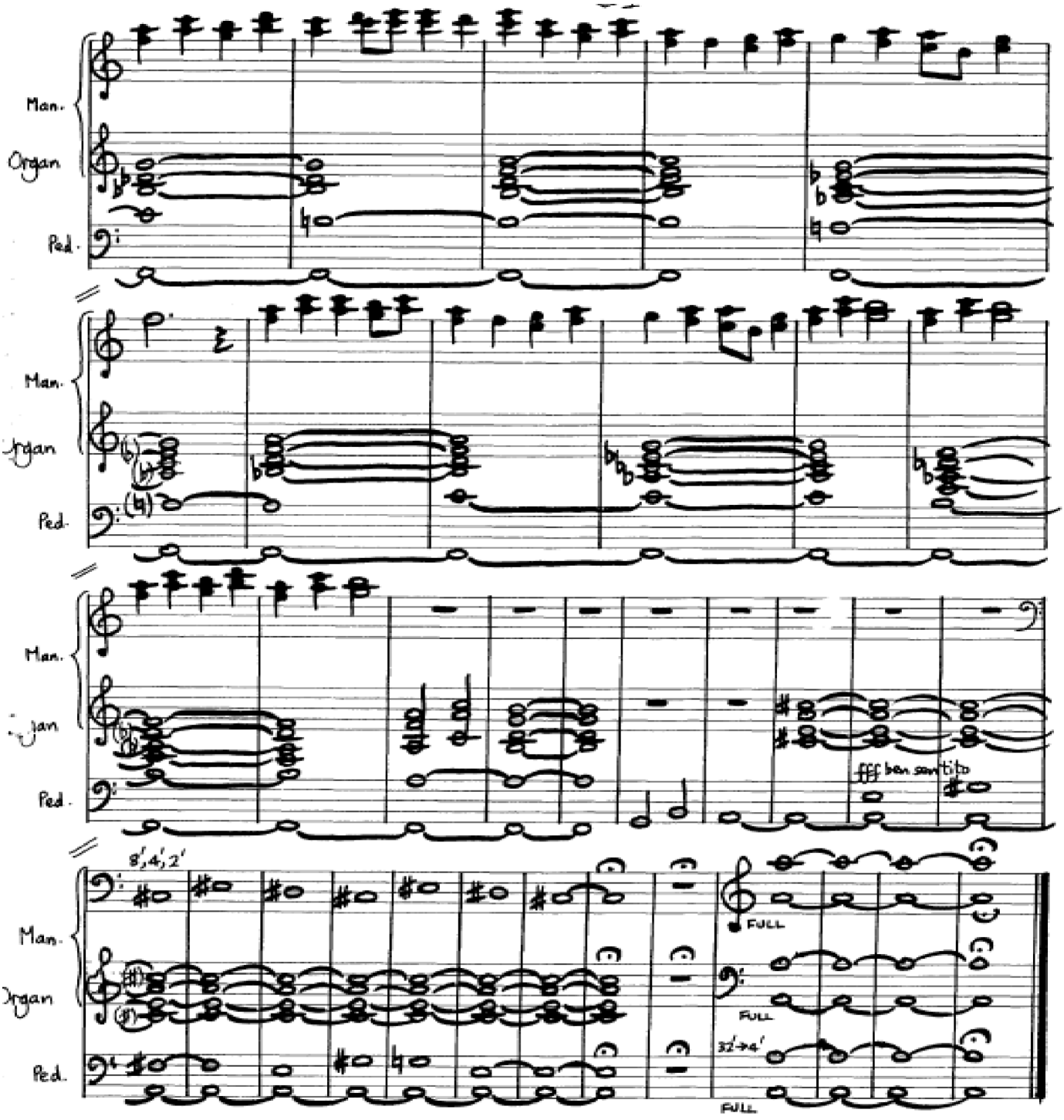
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.
Man.
Organ
Ped.

Man.
Ped.
8′
8′, 16′

Man.
Organ
Ped.
cresc.
ff
8' diap.
8' diap
p poco a poco crescendo
fff
Full
32', 16', 8'


Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.
Man.
Ped.

Man.
Organ
Ped.
(32'off)16,8'



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Three Hymns in Praise of Saint Magnus

for unaccompanied voices

(SATB and SSAATBB)

by

Clive Strutt

1. **The Saint Magnus Hymn**, *Nobilis humilis, Magne, martyr stablis, ...*

2. **Antiphons at Matins**, *Magnus ex prosabia magna procreatus, ...*

3. **A Hymn at Lauds**, *Exultemus concrepantes sonora melodia Sancti Magni venerantes martyris insignia ...*